

Title X Family Planning Program, grants from the Centers for Disease Control for community projects, and the Adolescent and Family Life Act which provides a small grant that goes toward care and parenting for adolescent mothers and abstinence only education. These programs help, but they are clearly not enough.

Although federal attention and involvement is important, we must become local leaders on this issue. Teen pregnancy is a national problem, but its solutions are local. We must go into our districts to see what works and encourage community involvement.

There is not magic bullet. I have worked with Congresswoman EVA CLAYTON on this issue, and I can tell you that what works in her district in North Carolina is not what works in Montgomery County, Maryland.

I have met with Elayne Bennett, founder of the Best Friends program, and several of her students. I must be honest; I was very skeptical of abstinence-only prevention efforts. Her results in my district, however, have been amazing. The Best Friends program is not a quick fix. It works because mentors make a long-term investment in junior high and high school girls, taking them on outings, teaching them new skills, and going to weekly classes with them. It won't work for everyone, but it is one of many approaches making a dent in this critical problem.

Maryland's teen pregnancy rate ranks 13th nationally. There are 118 pregnancies annually per 1,000 women aged 15–19 in Maryland; 43% result in live births and 29% result in abortions. The State of Maryland is making progress in reducing the number of pregnant teenagers through the Governor's Council on Adolescent Pregnancy. As part of their ongoing media campaign, they have developed a new series of ads focusing on parent-child communication as a means to prevent teen pregnancy, and they are holding a contest for teens to create teen pregnancy prevention slogans.

I will continue to encourage my colleagues in Congress to make reducing teen pregnancy a priority by going back to their districts and encouraging community leaders, religious leaders, parents, business, the media, and local leaders to figure out what works. This is only the beginning of a dialogue between the Congress, the media, policy experts, state and local governments, and educators. It's time that we figure out what works in order to make a difference.

#### NATIONAL MARITIME DAY 1998

### HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on this special day, National Maritime Day, it is fitting that we recognize and honor those men and women who have served our country by transporting our Nation's cargoes in times of peace and prosperity and in times of war and grave danger. The service of merchant mariners to our Nation includes the heroic effort put forth during World War II by the thousands of young men who volunteered for service in the United States Merchant Marine. Many of these merchant mariners were recruited specifically to staff ships under the control and direction of

the United States government to assist the World War II effort. These seamen were subject to government control, their vessels were controlled by the government under the authority of the War Shipping Administration and, like branches of military service, they traveled under sealed orders and were subject to the Code of Military Justice.

Some volunteers joined the Merchant Marines because minor physical problems, such as poor eyesight, made them ineligible for service in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps. Others were encouraged by military recruiters to volunteer for service in the Merchant Marines because the recruiter recognized that the special skills offered by the volunteer could best be put to use for our country by service in the Merchant Marines. Most importantly, all were motivated by their deep love of country and personal sense of patriotism to contribute to the war effort.

In order to staff our growing merchant fleet during World War II, the U.S. Marine Commission established training camps around the country under the direct supervision of the Coast Guard. After completing basic training, which included both small arms and cannon proficiency, seamen became active members of the U.S. Merchant Marine. These seamen, often at great personal risk, helped deliver troops and war supplies needed for every Allied invasion site from Guadalcanal to Omaha Beach.

More than 6,500 merchant mariners who served our country during World War II gave the ultimate sacrifice of their lives, including 37 who died as prisoners of war, and almost 5,000 World War II Merchant Mariners remain officially missing and are presumed dead. In addition, 733 U.S. Merchant ships were destroyed. Even after the surrender of Japan, members of our Merchant Marine fleet were in mortal danger as they continued to support the war effort by entering mined harbors to transport our troops safely home. After the war ended, they carried food and medicine to millions of the world's starving people.

In spite of the illustrious service of the World War II merchant mariners, then-Secretary of the Air Force, Edward Aldridge, inexplicably made the decision in 1988 to define the dates for World War II service differently for merchant mariners than for those who served in the other American forces. The effect of this decision was to deny veteran status to those merchant mariners who served between the dates of August 15, 1945 and December 31, 1946, the official end of World War II. H.R. 1126, the Merchant Mariner Fairness Act, which has wide bipartisan support from over one-half of the Members of the House, will correct this erroneous administrative decision by making the service eligibility period for World War II merchant mariners identical to that established for others.

It is important to remember that during the time period addressed by this bill, August 15, 1945 through December 31, 1946, 12 U.S. Flag Merchant Vessels were lost or damaged as a result of striking mines, and some of the merchant mariners serving on these vessels were killed or injured. Fully understanding the tremendous risks they faced, merchant mariners, nonetheless, willingly went into mined harbors so that they could bring our American troops home to their families and friends. I believe these courageous merchant mariners, who were subject to the risk and dangers of

war between V-J Day and the official end of the war, have been wrongfully denied veteran status. They faced the very real hazards of war-time hostile actions and should not be denied the status of veteran for purposes of laws administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs because their sea-going contributions began after August 15, 1945. H.R. 1126 will correct this injustice.

It has been more than a half century since the end of World War II. How much longer must these aging merchant mariners, who are forgotten patriots of World War II, wait for their service to our Nation to be properly and fully honored and acknowledged? H.R. 1126 will finally provide appropriate recognition: veteran status for a few thousand World War II American merchant mariners. While this status will enable them to be eligible for veterans' benefits, it is likely that the only benefit most will receive is proper recognition of their contribution to the war effort and the right to a veteran's funeral. The merchant mariners who would be granted veteran status by this bill are aging. They will not qualify for educational benefits. As Medicare beneficiaries, most already have longstanding relationship with their medical providers and are unlikely to seek VA health care. Nonetheless, the merchant mariners of World War II will receive the long-overdue thanks from the Nation they served faithfully and courageously.

I encourage those Members who have not already cosponsored the Merchant Mariners Fairness Act to celebrate National Maritime Day by joining Members on both sides of the aisle as a cosponsor of this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ARTHUR J.  
NAPARSTEK

### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, May 22, 1998*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding career of a distinguished scholar and civic activist, Dr. Arthur J. Naparstek. On Saturday, May 30, 1998, Dr. Naparstek will be joined by his family and friends to celebrate his 60th birthday. It gives me great pleasure to wish my dear friend, Arthur, a very happy birthday.

Dr. Arthur J. Naparstek is a nationally recognized authority and leading theorist on community change and community organization. Since 1962 he has been extremely dedicated to improving the lives of those less fortunate by teaching others how to develop neighborhood strategies and coalitions to build stronger communities.

Since 1983, Dr. Naparstek has been the Coyle Professor of Social Work at the School for Applied Social Sciences at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland where he served as Dean for nearly a decade. As Director of the Cleveland Foundation Commission on Poverty from 1990 to 1993, Dr. Naparstek initiated the drafting of the commission's report which served as the basis for HUD's \$2.6 billion Urban Revitalization Demonstration Act (HOPE VI). In July 1994, in recognition of his service to combat inner city poverty, President Clinton appointed Dr. Naparstek to the Board of Trustees of the Corporation for National